



# Phillips Brooks House Association Summer Newsletter

# 2010

<http://www.pbha.org>

Fall 2010

**Kaitlin Koga '11**  
PBHA President

For many people, the summer of 2010 will be remembered as the summer of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Much more than a football competition, the World Cup was an international celebration, bringing people together from around the world to compete, cheer, and celebrate. As captured in the uplifting chorus of the World Cup anthem "Wavin' Flag," the event was also about envisioning a better world for the youth of tomorrow: *"Let's rejoice in the beautiful game, and together at the end of the day, we all say/When I get older I will be stronger, they'll call me freedom, just like a wavin' flag."*

While the world celebrated this vision – blazoned across television screens in bright colors and perfect cinematic images – young people in SUP classrooms in Boston and Cambridge were working hard to make this vision a reality. What we accomplished was truly amazing and I know that when I look back on the

summer of 2010, I will remember SUP and the many transformative moments that define what our programming is all about.

For me, it's moments like watching Shawn Johnson, a first-year senior counselor at the Franklin I-O camp, teach his six-year-olds about their community. Shawn asked his campers to think about the good and bad things they saw while on a tour of the streets near Dorchester High. After having them draw the negative images – trash, graffiti, bad words, broken glass, and torn up roads – Shawn asked his kids to envision their ideal community and illustrate it on tiles. By placing the images side by side, Shawn allowed his six-year-olds to understand problems that exist in their community and to simultaneously see their role in bettering the place they call home. Shawn not only taught his class the importance of being an agent of change but lived it through his own

story. As a former camper from the age of six and a junior counselor for four years, Shawn returned to SUP for his fifth summer of employment to give back to his community.

I'll remember also moments like being at the South Boston camp, where junior counselor Rebecca Pierre told me with passion about the lesson she taught that week. Focusing on child soldiers in Uganda, Rebecca had her nine-year-olds imagine the struggles of children no older than themselves. While Rebecca was amazed at how deeply and thoughtfully her campers engaged with the activity, I myself was affected by Rebecca's personal global conscientiousness. A rising senior in high school, Rebecca was inspiring children to care about problems in the world of which many adults are ignorant.

I could hardly talk about transformative moments without mentioning our 11th Annual Midsummer Celebration. Seeing SUP in full force – 150 college-student staff,



*Meaghan Durgin '11, Summer Program Group Officer, with Kaitlin Koga '11, PBHA President, at the 2010 Midsummer Celebration*

100 high-school junior counselors, and more than 800 campers, high spirited and decked in brightly colored SUP camp T-shirts – was absolutely breathtaking. Rebecca and Shawn were outstanding leaders in their camps, but being at Midsummer reminded me that they are just two in a sea of hundreds of capable and powerful young people that SUP brings together. So while I am deeply saddened to see the summer come to an end, I leave SUP with an overwhelming feeling of hope. As we get older, I have full faith that we will be stronger because of our summer in SUP this year and the many more to come.

## SUP 2010 is...

**Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment (BRYE) ✦ Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program (CYEP)  
Chinatown Adventure (CHAD) ✦ Franklin I-O Summer Program ✦ Keylatch Summer Program  
Mission Hill Summer Program (MHSP) ✦ Native American Youth Enrichment Program (NAYEP)  
Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment (RYSE) ✦ Roxbury Youth Initiative (RYI)  
South Boston Outreach Summer (SBOS)**

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# Keylatch Learning

BaoTran TranNguyen '12  
Keylatch Co-Director

Keylatch Summer Program is proud to be in its 26th year of operation in the South End and Lower Roxbury. Apart from the usual fun field trips that are planned each year to the Boston Children's Museum and CoCoKeys Water Resort, Keylatch was pleased to introduce new intensive projects to enhance the campers' academic experiences. In particular, many of our classrooms studied healthy lifestyles. In the Oldest Boys classroom, the senior counselor, with the help of the junior counselor, led the campers in daily exercise routines each morning. During that time, the campers learned the importance of stretching their muscles before undertaking more strenuous activities. Additionally, the counselors and campers discussed the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables for snacks, as opposed to snack cakes and chips. With regard to social health, the Oldest Girls engaged in discussions about positive peer relationships. Overall, the focus on health at Keylatch is a growing endeavor, and we hope to continue to extend the campers' interest beyond their classrooms and into their communities.

In terms of mathematics, our campers discovered new ways to apply the skills that they learned during the school year. In order to learn fiscal responsibility, the three oldest classrooms ran their own businesses. The groups began by writing business plans that featured some way to better the program. For example, Group 6 (ten-year-olds) collected books and sold them to classrooms in need of their own collections. The books were sold for Key Cash, currency awarded to campers for performing unprompted tasks. In the Oldest



Returning Co-Director Karla Reyes '11 and Keylatch campers at the 2010 Midsummer Celebration

Boys classroom, the campers sold nutritious snack items such as granola bars and natural fruit juices to the other classrooms in exchange for Key Cash and also real money. The boys' store (Rocket Money) raised funds for their Final Field Trip to Water Wizz. All of the classrooms kept track of their profits and losses and tested out new ways of attracting more customers.

The younger classrooms undertook projects that focused more on literacy, social studies, and the arts. For example, Group 1 campers practiced their writing skills by pretending to be journalists, specifically recording the sights, sounds, and smells of the various field trips that they took. Their first efforts, articles about the Museum of Science, were featured in the Keylatch newsletter, *Las Llavas*, or *The Keys*, complete with color illustrations. Groups 2 and 5 engaged in discussions about ecosystems and communities, respectively. The children in both groups began to understand their roles as leaders and arbiters of change in not only their classrooms but in the larger Keylatch community. Finally, the campers and staff of Group 4 explored new art forms on a daily basis, studying mosaics, tie-dye, and clay sculpture, combining short lessons on the history of those media with longer hands-on activities.

## 2010 Collaboration: Keylatch/MHSP

About a decade ago, at the request of prominent community leaders and undergraduate partners, the Keylatch Summer Program and Mission Hill Summer Program decided to collaborate in order to build lasting relationships between the young people in both camps. After much deliberation, the 2010 Key-Mish directing team chose to focus on two goals: fun and friendships. They based this year's collaboration on six different reality television shows to foster healthy competition and create a space for strong relationships to form among campers. The children concocted delicious (and eccentric) dishes in *Iron Chef*, built chairs using only newspapers and tape in *Junkyard Wars*, competed for the top spot in *America's Best Dance Crew*, chased after clues in *Amazing Race*, whipped up fashionable creations in *Project Runway*, and ran through obstacles in *Global Guts*. We also piloted a three-way collaboration with the two oldest groups of Keylatch, Mission Hill, and the Roxbury Youth Initiative.



Keylatch and Mission children building chairs out of newspaper for *Junkyard Wars* during their weekly collaboration

In 2010, Keylatch Summer Program once again made camp as memorable as possible for the children, instilling each day with the love and learning that are the trademarks of this enduring South End tradition.

### Southie Blogs!

Read Senior Counselor Nadia Farjood's Group 4's blog at:  
<http://sbosgroup4.blogspot.com/>



# Experiences at Mission Hill Summer Program

**Kristy Luk '12**  
MHSP Co-Director

On the wall of our campsite hung a large piece of flip chart paper with the words “Our Paths to Mission” scrawled in the middle of the page. There were sticky notes, lines, arrows, and writing all over this poster that represented the significant events in our staff members’ lives that eventually united us for MHSP 2010. This poster was a constant reminder of the magic of our summer- our staff and campers brought a diversity of experiences, dreams, and expectations into camp, yet it was precisely this diversity that fueled the learning that occurred over the course of our seven weeks together. Several of the new initiatives that MHSP undertook underscore the emphasis on mutual learning that was so integral to our growth this summer.

Our vision for MHSP was for our camp to be imbedded in the Mission Hill fabric, something that added significant value to the community. Specifically, we emphasized the necessity of creating partnerships with local institutions to create service-



learning projects. Through these service-learning projects that teamed our students with local organizations, our campers were able to identify a need in their community, work with assets already in Mission Hill, and empower themselves in the process of working toward social justice. Several of our classes met with Brigham and Women’s Hospital representatives and presented their case on why the hospital’s new construction projects should be environmentally friendly. In preparing for their presentation, our campers learned about how asthma affects their classmates and their own families, the

scientific knowledge behind why pollution damages communities, and they developed skills to advocate for themselves. Similarly, in a partnership with Sociedad Latina, one of our classrooms learned about the current state of education reform, wrote letters to their representatives, and went to City Hall to present the letters directly. The purpose of these projects was twofold: one, we hoped that our campers would accomplish something concrete; two, we hoped that our campers would feel a sense of self-empowerment in effecting change in our world. Campers from Mission Hill were able to

share something about their own personal experiences with the education system or the high rates of asthma that plague their neighborhood. For our counselors, they learned how to channel these stories into constructive plans that empowered themselves and their campers.

It’s difficult to believe that after months of intense preparation, MHSP 2010 has come to a close. A short seven weeks later, MHSP changed each and every one of us in ways we never anticipated coming in to the program. While it is bittersweet to know that our summer is over, it is encouraging to realize that the tradition of MHSP lives on for our campers and staff who create learning experiences that are meaningful for not only themselves but also for those around them.

## Come to the Mission Hill Reunion!

**Saturday, October 16, 2010 (during PBHA Alumni Weekend)**

**10 a.m.**

Bus from PBHA to Mission Hill

**10:30 a.m. - Noon**

Walking tour of **Mission Hill**, Q & A with volunteers, alumni, former campers, parents, community members, and local leaders

**Noon - 1:00 p.m.**

Cookout

**1:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Return by bus to PBH



*Keylatch counselor Brandon Moon presents community leader Keith Houston with PBHA’s Community Builder Award at the 2010 Midsummer Celebration for his work in the South End.*



*Mission Hill Summer Program is known for its strong contingent of counselors from Mission Hill. Space is donated by Wentworth Institute.*



# Thank you to our 2010 PBHA S

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Please let us know if your name was inadvertently omitted.

Thank you to the Chase Community Giving Challenge that matched many new SUP gifts!



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## Summer Homeless Success in 2010

**Katie Dahlinghaus '12 & Caroline McDowell '12**  
Summer Homeless Shelter  
Co-Directors

At the Summer Homeless Shelter we strive to create a friendly and productive environment. Everything went very well at our new location. As you may know, we usually operate out of the St. James Episcopal Church in Porter Square, but this year we're running out of the University Lutheran Church. We're hoping to stay in our new location in the future, as it is perfectly equipped for a shelter. The location this year made operating so much easier – a real joy! We served 12 incredible guests with extremely different and interesting backgrounds. We provided our guests with clean beds, three meals a day, computer access, and one-on-one case management focusing on housing, employment, legal aid, cash benefits,



*Summer Homeless Shelter staff reflect on a successful summer*

identification issues, and anything else relevant to a particular guest. One of the biggest challenges for many of our guests and people facing homelessness is the lack of proper identification. Without an ID, it is virtually impossible to be approved for MassHealth, to access other shelters, or to do something as mundane (and important) as accessing one's own bank account. One of the most interesting aspects of our shelter is that it is entirely student-run and the majority of the population we serve is older adults. Many adults say our

staff brings a unique idealism to its work and this serves as a welcome change. Our guests this year ranged from mid-twenties to sixties and had a truly wonderful dynamic and relationship with each other and our staff. Many mornings they went out for coffee and conversation together and supported each other by sharing information concerning to work opportunities or public programs. Our shelter could not have run without generous help from PBHA staff, especially Susan Collings and David Dance.

### Community Cousins



Community Cousins was a pilot program that included staff and families of different backgrounds from BRYE, Keylatch, South Boston, and CYEP who came together for informal events like a Hawaiian luau. Generously funded by the Bock family Community Cousins has the potential to grow in future summers!



#### Design & Editing

Susan Collings  
Louise Wills  
Stanley Zheng '12

## Senior Staff Earn SUP Awards

At the end of the summer, PBHA honors SUP staff with what has become affectionately known as the SUP Blow Out. At this event, a special group of student staff receive awards, having been nominated by their directors for performing exceptionally in the classroom. Each receives a named award, recognition, and his/her camp benefits from a cash grant toward the counselor's summer stipend. This year the

Ellsworth S. Grant Award went to Brittany Lewer '13, a "rising star" at BRYE. The Edward S. Fleming Awards went to Rebecca Merton '13 at NAYEP for her thoughtfulness and Daniel Villafana '12 at Mission Hill for his selflessness. Three Maye R. Zoffer Awards went to Brittany Hollis '11 (U Maryland) at Keylatch, Shawn Johnson at Franklin, and Latoya Sanderson '11 (Pomona) at RYI. Lauren Feldman '13 of RYSE was also honored.



*Six SUP senior counselors/teachers were recognized for their excellence in the classroom: Shawn Johnson (Franklin), Brittany Hollis (Keylatch), Daniel Villafan (Mission Hill), Brittany Lewer (BRYE), Rebecca Merton (NAYEP), and Lauren Feldman (R YSE). Missing from the photo is Latoya Sanderson, already away at college.*



## BRYE LOVE = Embracing Diversity

**Nelia Peña '12**  
BRYE Co-Director

This summer one of BRYE's main focuses was creating safe spaces in which to explore and be proud of diversity. I remember clearly the first week of program as the children gathered in the cafeteria before going to their classrooms. The room was split into sections based solely on language spoken. Thao and Tai spoke excitedly in Vietnamese, as Maria and Margarete played Cape Verdean hand games. Later in the summer I would patrol the cafeteria and find pockets of children still speaking in their native language, but I also heard them monitoring each other. "Speak English!" Danielle would tell Maldini firmly. Girls from one of our oldest beginning classes – one

from the Dominican Republic, one from Vietnam, and one from Burma and Thailand – have become the most loyal of friends.

This year of BRYE marked a very important demographic shift. We were extremely proud to have 88 children from 12 different countries in the BRYE family, as well as a staff that spoke seven languages. Furthermore, among the children, there was no clear majority in their country of origin.

The BRYE staff was very intentional in creating a community of children of different backgrounds that came together to learn about their differences as well as their common humanity.

One of our senior counselors planned each week of her curriculum around a different country,



making sure to include the four countries represented in her class. Another senior counselor gave her students the freedom to make their own autobiographies in which they wrote about their heritage, life experiences, and passions. To end the summer, the directors compiled written work, artwork, and photographs from all the classes in a literary magazine and photo journal. It included

stories about home countries, a poem about moving to America, descriptions of BRYE events, and more. Each child was included in it regardless of his or her English ability.

With diverse classes, intentional curriculum, and free time in the cafeteria to enjoy one another, we are confident that each of our students left BRYE with a deeper understanding of diversity.

### Robert Coles "Call of Service" Lecture & Award - PBHA Alumni Weekend, October 15-17, 2010



This year's Robert Coles "Call of Service" lecturer and awardee is U.S. Secretary of Education (and former PBHAer) Arne Duncan '87, speaking Friday evening (10/15/10) in The Memorial Church. Saturday's events include a celebration of PBHA's work in Mission Hill, a master class taught by Dr Coles,

and a banquet honoring longtime supporters Arnold Hiatt and the Stride Rite Foundation. There will be plenty of opportunities throughout the weekend, including a post-lecture reception, Saturday's annual meeting, lunch in Mission Hill, a PBHA open house, and Sunday morning's "5K for PBHA Fun Run," to meet up with friends, fellow volunteers, and current PBHA students. The full schedule, along with registration and lodging information, is online at [pbha.org/coles2010](http://pbha.org/coles2010).

### Corbin, cont. from page 8

becomes smoother and smoother. Late nights planning transportation for the next day now works like clockwork. This year's Midsummer Celebration had more than 1,300 attendees, and we all left the site an hour after the last performance – the roles and responsibilities have been perfected over time. Surveys for campers, parents, and counselors are ready to go and are returned at a high rate, providing vital feedback.

I could go on and on, but the point is that all of

the above examples were once the goal of a person or group to improve during a previous summer. Progress is always being made, even if its full fruition is found in the future.

It's been my deep honor to work alongside – actually, more often to admirably observe as this group needed little assistance – the committed and capable student leaders of 2010. It's been a terrific summer and their contributions will live on and on...



**Gene Corbin**

Class of 1955 Executive Director

One of the advantages that staff members have over students – who seem to have the nasty habit of graduating and moving on with their lives – is observing PBHA’s Summer Urban Program over time. SUP has always been amazing, yet old-timers like me often talk about how it somehow keeps getting better and better, year after year. After saying that “SUP is amazing” during any given summer, it becomes hard to know how to build upon the previously articulated superlatives.

Why does SUP keep



getting better? As progress is made that allows SUP to serve the children and youth participating in the 12 camps even better, these improvements are diligently passed forward both in written reports and, perhaps even more importantly, orally, as new leaders are identified and transitioned. In short, if something works once, it becomes part of the SUP culture.

There’s something magical about this dynamic process. SUP student leaders grasp that they are part of something bigger than themselves and their particular time. The power of SUP is always the product of a larger community of contributors beyond any given summer. Current students stand on the shoulders of the predecessors, and their hard work and creativity establishes a new launching point for future leaders. SUP is constantly experimenting, learning, and reaching higher.

As one who has observed SUP for eight years, I could cite many examples of improvements

made over time. Programmatically, every SUP camp is now connected to an after-school and/or mentoring program during the academic year to promote year-round and multi-year relationships between our students and the youth they serve. Those deep and mutually transformative relationships result in more campers becoming junior counselors and then senior counselors and directors. These powerful relationships are capitalized on, at a critical juncture in young people’s lives, to provide leadership development and college preparation through the enhanced Leaders! program.

Procedurally SUP

cont. on page 7

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